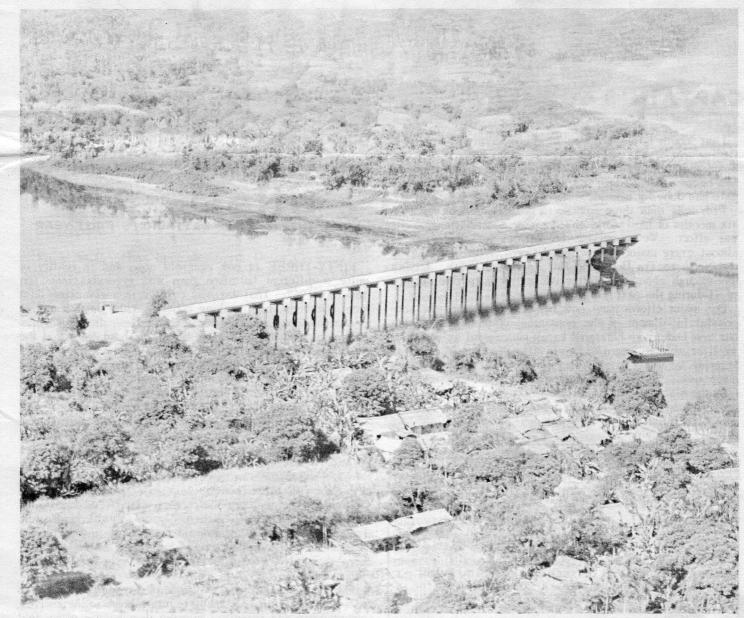


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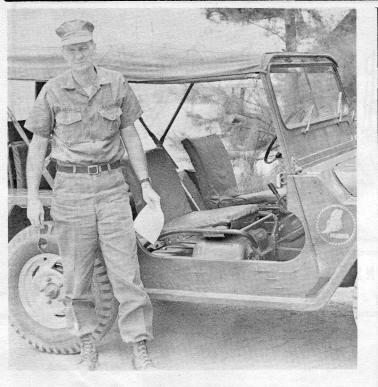
DANANG EAST RVN

U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FIFTY-THREE

JULY 1968



COMPLETED AMMI BRIDGE



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Last month I told you that we were having difficulty in finding out when we were scheduled to depart Vietnam. Since that printing the date of 20 September, on or about, has become fairly firm. It's amazing what a firm departure date has done for morale.

With less than three months to go we can look back on six months of hard work, and positive contributions to the war effort. We've served the Marines and the Army in almost every major area within I Corps, from Khe Sanh in the North to Tra Bond and Hoi An in the South. I can't say enough about the distinctive and constructive service of 53 during the past half year.

Our major efforts must now be directed toward the successful fulfillment of the remaining assignments so that our last endeavors here will be as successful as our first. we'll be able to return to Davisville Proud and Content in knowing we did a tough series of jobs well if we don't let down now. As in any race the champions are separated from the also rans when they get to the home stretch. Keep up the good work. We can't rest on our laurels until we cross the finish line --- 20 September!

COMMANDING OFFICER	CDR R.A. BOWERS CEC, USN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER	LCDR R.H. KNAUF CEC, USN
STAFF	LT J.R. FIOL CHC, USNR
	ENS B.L. CRAIN USNR
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THIS FAMILY GRAM WAS PRINTED AT THE NAVY PUBLICATIONS AND PRINTING SERVICE BRANCH OFFICE, OKINAWA ON U.S. GOVERNMENT EQUIPMENT WITH APPROPRIATED FUNDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NAVSO P-1035 (CURRENT REVISION). STATEMENTS CONTAINED HEREIN ARE IN NO WAY INTENDED TO BE THE OFFICIAL OPINION OF THE DEPARTMENT.



VADM F.L. ASHWORTH DEPUTY CINLANTFLT, & CDR R.A. BOWERS AT RECOMMISSIONING CERMONIES FOR MCB-53 (JUNE 20, 1967)

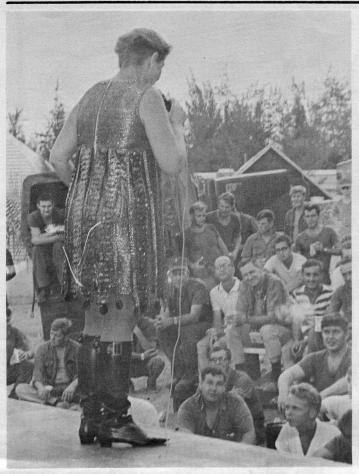
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BATTALION'S FIRST YEAR

FIFTY-THREE is one year old now, and in reality is quite a different battalion than was recommissioned on June 30, 1967. That day was covered in a glamorous mist with speeches, high ranking officers, cake cutting and of course champagne. But that is behind us, the glamor has been replaced by the reality of sweat, hard work and the importance of FIFTY-THREE's job in Vietnam.

An important job it is! Two Ammi Pontoon bridges-- the first of their kind in Vietnam today - a large building complex at the NSA Hospital - including a urology building, a blood storage bank, and several surginal suites. The largest covered storage in Vietnam today 352,000 square feet - is now under construction by 53, The III Marine Amphibious Force Headquarters Command Operations Center was recently finished - these are just a few of FIFTY-THREE's accomplishments.

Along with these construction jobs 53 has strived to help the Vietnamese "help themselves" through Civic: Action. the MEDCAP - Medical Civic Action Program - has brought medical and dental aid to orphans and local villagers in the area. Many men have also taken it upon themselves to aid the children directly by sponsoring their education.

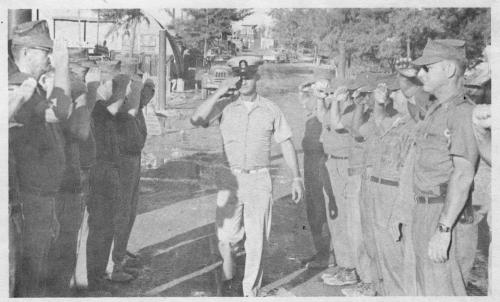
FIFTY-THREE's first deployment is rapidly drawing to to a close - the men are ready to return home to their wives, sweethearts and parents - knowing they have a great deal to be proud of!



USO SHOWS AT CAMP ADENIR ARE ALWAYS "INTERESTING".



MCB-53'S BAND PERFORMS. SHOWN HERE ARE SINGER SN W.T. HEAD AND DRUMMER HM3 B.L. CALLOWAY.



EOCS E.C. DANA, BEING "PIPED-OVER" THE SIDE 23 YEARS OF NAVAL SERVICE



LT. B.L. RUNBERG DELTA COMPANY COMMANDER, BUC R.L. NAPIER DELTA COMPANY CHIEF, AND LT(JG) D.J. MAC KINNON DELTA COMPANY ASSISTANT COMPANY COMMANDER.

Delta's Demons

While MCB-53 has been deployed, Delta Company has been kept busy. Fortunately we didn't have to worry about which job had top priority because they were all top priority!

We started this deployment by completing NSA Hospital projects left over from MCB-7. We also constructed an Ammi Pontoon Bridge South of DaNang under the expertise guidance of Ltig Horton, BUC Ford and SWC Hawkins!! Then we started doing a little work for the Third Marine Amphibious Force at Camp Horn. BU1 Hamm and his crew were assigned the task of building 3 two-story barracks for the marines. They did such a good job that as a reward they were assigned the III MAF Administrative Building. Of course this was completed in a manner that reflects the highest traditions of Delta Company and naturally both jobs had a No. 1 priority, but don't think these were the only jobs Delta Company tackled. We also built a set of field quarters for 2 Marine Corps Generals. BU2 Howard was in charge of this project. This project, besides having a No. 1 priority, also required a stateside finish using Vietnam materials! An impossible task? Not for Delta Company. "Well Done" crew. Meanwhile BU1 George Cummings and his crew were assigned the Combat Operations Center, (No. 1 priority again) at III MAF. It has a complicated design that required the men to put in many long, hard hours. They have done a fantastic job and can be justly proud of their work now that the job is almost complete. Words cannot express the quality and quantity of work that has gone into that building. During this time, Ltjg Horton took his Ammi Bridge crew, Detail Delta One, up north to Nam Hoa and put in another bridge (560' long) They completed it two weeks ahead of schedule in spite of many difficulties. It was at this time that Lt Runberg relieved Ltjg Horton as Company Commander. Welcome aboard Mr. Runberg!

When Bob Hamm and his crew finished the Admin. Building, they were put on the I- Corps Direct Air Support Control (IDASC) Building. This had a No. 2 priority for a day and a half and then changed to No. 1. When the priority changed BU2 Roloff and his crew worked as a night crew and the building was completed 2 days ahead of schedule.

While the Builders always seem to get the glory when a job is completed, lets not forget that the Steelworkers contribute immensely to each and every job. There have been three projects that give the Steelworkers their due glory: thetwo Anmi Bridges (The first 2 constructed in Vietnam) were built by the Steelworkers and currently the Steelworkers are building a huge Pasco Building Complex for the Naval Support Activity, DaNang. What a job and lets not forget the 30 miles of steel in COC.

All in all, Delta Company has done more than its share in contributing to the impressive list of completed projects that MCB-53 has to its credit. Since words and pictures cannot completely describe the work Delta Company has contributed, all are cordially invited to come to DaNang to

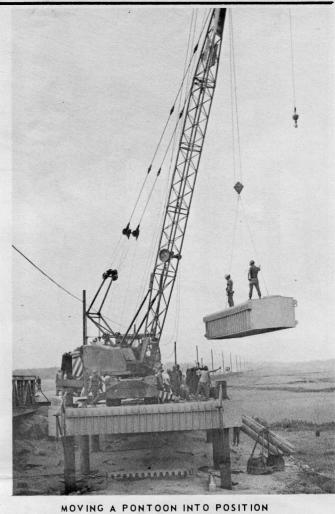
bask in the splendor of Delta Companys efforts!



 $LT(JG),\,C.W.$ HORTON AND CDR R.A. BOWERS WITH AMMI BRIDGE CREW



LT(JG) C.W. HORTON, CDR R.A. BOWERS, LCDR R.H. SCHELFORD, COMMODORE C.W. TURNER (FORMER COMMANDER 30NCR) COL. W.E. JOHNSON FORCE ENGINEER III MAF AT OPENING OF AMMIBRIDGE.



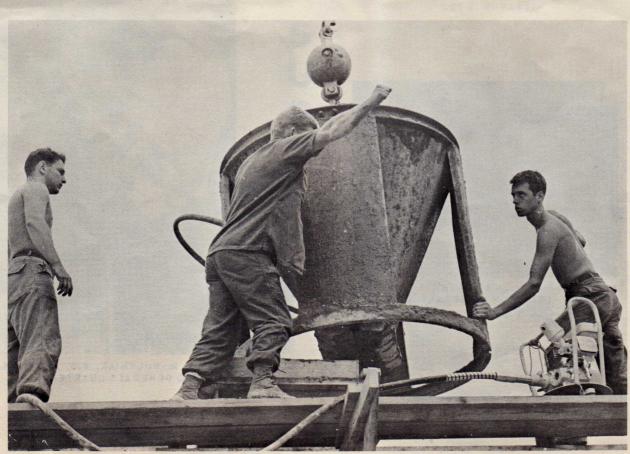


SW2 W.J. CHEIRRIETT, SWC L. HAWKINS, BU3 MUSOLF SET ANOTHER SECTION OF PONTOON.



SW3 W. SHKAPITCH LEADING DOWNSPOUT FOR THE GENERALS QUARTERS.





E.H. BRANNELLY, J.D. HOWARD, AND R. KOZMINSJI POURING CONCRETE FOR GENERALS QUARTERS.



LT. B.L. RUNBERG, AND GENERAL E.E. ANDERSON CHIEF OF STAFF III MAF



GROON, G.C. AND KUNICK, L. CUTTING DOWNSPOUTS FOR GUTTERS ON GENERALS QUARTERS.



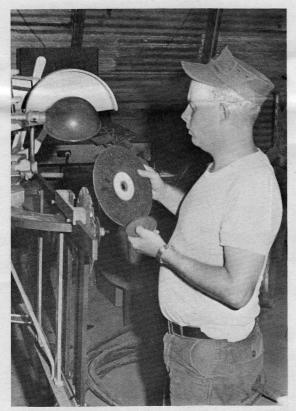
J.S. FEE AND N.L. STANTS CUTTING INTERIOR TRIM FOR GENERALS QUARTERS



D.C. EICHENBERG, M. KULYNIAK, W.G. RYDALCH, AND D. GAUGH PAINTING GENERALS QUARTERS.

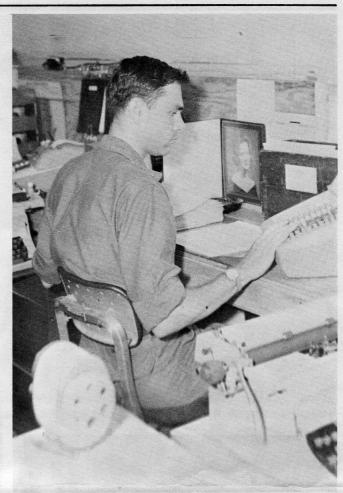


LCDR J.F. LYTLE SC, USN HEADS UP SUPPLY DEPARTMENT WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOGISTICAL SUPPORT



BUR2 J.S. BROWN SHARPENS SAW BLANDE IN CENTERAL TOOL ROOM

S U P P L



DK3 G. R. MARTIN



SKC J.S. HEALEY SUPPLY CHIEF



CS3 P.A. FRAZIER BEGINS PREPARATION OF ANOTHER CULINARY DELIGHT



SWC J.E. RAFFIN AND SN R.J. BOULET "WHA DA YA MEAN WE'RE OUT OF TOILET PAPER"



SN J.M. CHIARAVALLOT, CS2 NICHOLS CHECKING PROVISION RECEIPTS.



PORT WATCH OF GALLEY CREW: SN GRAY, CS3 NICKLIEN, CS3 GREEN, CS1 HILL, CSSA FORRESTER.



LT(JG) E.P. FUCILE CEC, USNR MATERIAL LIAISON OFFICER "YES GENERAL THE AIR CONDITIONING IS ON ITS WAY"



CN F.W. BAXTER AND BU3 R.R. BISHOP TWO MEMBERS OF '53'S MORTAR CREW WHICH PROVIDES LILUMINATION FOR PATROLS IN THE AREA.



TEACHING HER PUPS YOUNG! DOG LITTLE, THE RECENT MOTHER TO A LITTER OF THREE, ASSUMES HER POSITION BETWEEN THE DAY WATCH, EQUIPMENT OPERATOR THIRD CLASS RICH J. BERESFORD, AND ONE OF HER NEWLY ARRIVED PUPS AT POST 15, CAMP ADENIR, DANANG EAST, VIETNAM. WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FIFTY-THREE SECURITY FORCE LOOKS MUCH BRIGHTER.



CMHCN T.M. MATTIMOE, AND CET3 E.J. GAILLARD OPERATING SWITCHBOARD IN 53'S COMMAND POST.



HOSPITAL CORPSMAN BENNY CALLOWAY TREATS A YOUNG BOY'S EAR INFECTION DURING A RECENT MEDCAP TO THE VILLAGE OF SON CHA. THE CHILD'S MOTHER MAKES THINGS EASIER FOR THE CORPSMAN BY STEADYING HER SON.



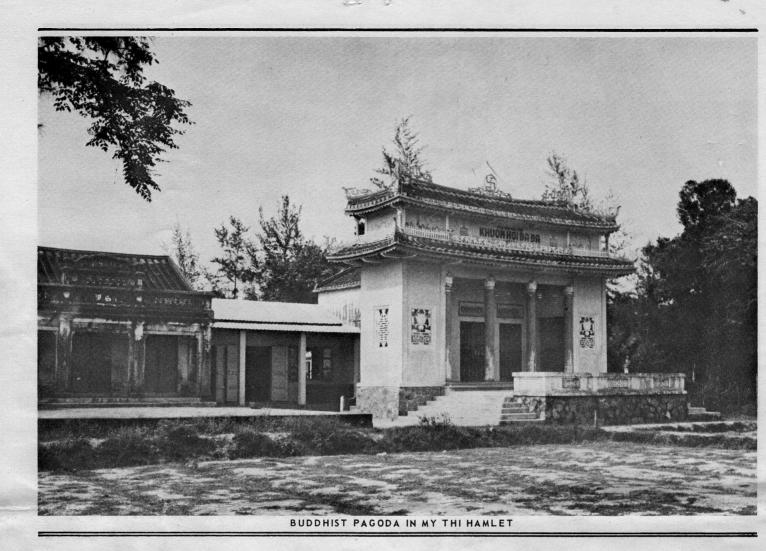
CHAPLAIN FIOL AND FATHER NHAN LOOK OVER PLANS FOR 8 ROOM SCHOOL, IN AN CU III REFUGEE VILLAGE, THAT MCB-53 CIVIC ACTION IS HELPING TO BUILD.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR FROM PHOUC HAI PROTESTANT CHURCH, CAME TO PROVIDE SPECIAL MUSIC FOR A SUNDAY SERVICE.



DETACHMENT FROM MCB-53, BEGINING CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE AT TRA BONG, SOUTH OF DANANG.



FROM: COMMANDING OFFICER U.S. NAVAL MCB FIFTY-THREE FPO, NY, N.Y. 09501

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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